

DOCKET NO: ISPH-0590
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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS: This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

1. *(currently amended)* A synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compound 20 nucleobases in length comprising at least one modified nucleobase targeted to a 3'-untranslated region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said 3'-untranslated region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase and inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10%.

Claims 2-3 *(cancelled)*

4. *(previously amended)* The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.
5. *(original)* The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.
6. *(previously amended)* The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.
7. *(original)* The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.
8. *(cancelled)*
9. *(previously amended)* The compound of claim 1 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.
10. *(previously amended)* The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

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11. *(cancelled)*

12. *(currently amended)* A pharmaceutical composition comprising the synthetic antisense compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. *(original)* The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claims 14-23 *(cancelled)*

24. *(new)* A method of modulating expression of stearyl-CoA desaturase in an animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal a pharmaceutical composition of claim 12.

25. *(new)* The method of claim 24, wherein said animal is in need of such treatment.

26. *(new)* The method of claim 24, wherein the administering is performed systemically.

27. *(new)* The method of claim 25, wherein said animal has a condition selected from abnormal lipid metabolism, abnormal cholesterol metabolism, atherosclerosis, or cardiovascular disease.